



SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN

E-Hardiman Herald



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

HARDIMAN HERALD - MAY 2005

DHS BUDGET PASSED OUT OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Under the leadership of Sen. Bill Hardiman, the Senate appropriations subcommittee reported the Department of Human Services' budget nearly \$18 million below the governor's recommendation, while still protecting Michigan's vulnerable. It would fund the department for the 2006 fiscal year budget with about \$4.4 billion.

The subcommittee recommended reducing spending by maximizing revenue within the department thru the identification and prevention of fraud, error, waste, and abuse; requiring performance based contracting and licensing; encouraging privatization of services; and streamlining services to prevent duplication of efforts, resources, and programs.

Hardiman stated that this proposal moves away from the concept of funding programs toward one focused on purchasing services. The emphasis should be on spending for those services that will bring the best outcomes and results for Michigan's vulnerable citizens at a price the state can afford.

The Department of Human Services is the state agency formerly called the Family Independence Agency. The department's budget as reported and recommended by the subcommittee would spend \$1.1 billion from state resources and about \$17.9 million less than what the governor proposed. The total budget, which includes money from federal programs, would be about \$32.6 million less.

Among other results, the following was recommended by the subcommittee Hardiman leads:

- \$500,000 each for marriage and fatherhood programs;
- New language that would help local Friend of the Court offices by improving the computer system that is used to track child support payments for families; and
- Revised language to require the department to develop a plan to provide client-centered results-oriented programs and services for day care assistance, the Family Independence Program, adoption, foster care, and prevention services which will include identifying

measurable performance indicators, monitored results, goals, and innovations to be presented during the annual budget presentation.

Senate Bill 271 now goes to the full Senate Appropriations Committee for approval.

HARDIMAN BILL AIDES LIFE SCIENCE EFFORT

Last week the Senate passed legislation sponsored by Senator Bill Hardiman and Senator Valde Garcia that would put Michigan at the forefront of attracting life-science investment and development as well as ease the path to the market for new drugs and medical devices.

The two-bill package would create a life-sciences seed fund for commercializing drugs, and diagnostic and medical devices. It also would start an innovative product development pipeline made up of Michigan life-science companies.

Michigan would be unique in offering the seed fund, which would create a niche for the state in bringing new drugs and equipment to market. Plus, the effort would help keep scientists and small life-sciences companies in the state and contributing to local economies. The seed fund would only invest 10 percent in a life science venture.

While Michigan has made major investments in life sciences over the past four years, the state is not truly reaping the economic benefits of that investment. A 2004 study ranked Michigan 37th in the nation in risk capital and infrastructure, just above states like Wyoming, Kansas, Iowa and Montana, whose economies rely heavily on natural resources.

SENATE REPUBLICANS PASS SEVERAL BILLS AIMED AT STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

Yesterday, Senate Republicans showed they remain focused on improving Michigan's economy by passing several initiatives aimed at boosting the state's high-tech sector and improve tourism throughout the state.

Earlier this year lawmakers introduced legislation crucial to promoting high-tech industries in Michigan and increasing angel investing.

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The four-bill package will help Michigan start-up companies obtain early-stage venture capital. Providing the funding would help new firms expand, invest in technology and build their workforce - creating more jobs for Michigan workers.

Passed by the Senate, legislation in the High Tech package includes:

- Senate Bill 92 creates an income-tax credit for angel investors, both individuals and groups, to encourage investing in small, tech-based Michigan firms;
- SB 521 establishes a capital-gains tax deduction to encourage repeat angel investing - allowing investors to reinvest their gains in qualified businesses or community-based seed capital companies within one year;

- SB 525 extends the deadline for the formation of the Michigan early stage venture investment fund; and
- SB 298 exempts high-tech companies from fees mandated by state corporation laws, removing a disincentive for growth.

Senators also worked on legislation regarding northern Michigan and the tourists who travel there. The legislation is designed to stimulate the economy in northern Michigan and provide incentives to attract tourism and travel in the region.

The Northern Michigan Initiative legislation passed by the Senate includes:

- SB 398 creates a Great Lakes Recreational Pass, a multi-state/federal agreement allowing individuals to purchase one pass to visit select parks and forest recreation areas throughout Michigan and neighboring states. The pass would emulate the “Northwest Pass” created by a partnership between Oregon, Washington and the National Park Service; and
- SB 415 will require the Department of Natural Resources to enter into an agreement with other states to share information regarding certain snowmobile convictions.

The bills now move on to the House of Representatives for consideration, while the Senate continues to work on additional components of the New Economy Plan, including the Rural Economy and Expanding Small Business packages.

HONORING OUR FALLEN SOLDIERS

On May 26th, Senator Hardiman was one of 4 Senators that participated as veterans in the Memorial Day Service in the Senate Chambers. Senator Hardiman served in the US Army during Vietnam for two years. The 38 State Senators joined with veterans across the state to commemorate not only Michigan’s fallen soldiers but armed service men and women across the nation. In recognition of the Memorial Day holiday, listed below are a few tips on how to fly the American Flag.

- The flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- The flag is never allowed to touch the ground or floor.
- When hung over a sidewalk on a rope extending from a building to a pole, the union stars are always away from the building.
- When vertically hung over the center of the street, the flag always has the union stars to the north in an east/west street, and to the east in a north/south street.
- The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point to the group when a number of flags of the States of localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
- The flag should never be festooned, drawn back, not up, in folds but always allowed to fall free.
- The flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon on Memorial Day then raised to the top of the staff.
- Never fly the flag upside down except as a signal of distress in instances of extreme danger to life or property.
- The flag is never flown in inclement weather except when using all-weather flag.
- The flag can be flown every day from sunrise to sunset and at night if illuminated properly.

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on the first Monday of each month from 10:00am - 11:30am throughout the 29th district. On Monday, June 6th, Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours at Kentwood Library, 4700 Kalamazoo SE in Kentwood, MI 49508.

Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- Monday, July 11, Bills Family Restaurant, 1235 Michigan NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (PLEASE NOTE: SENATOR HARDIMAN WILL NOT BE PRESENT AT THE JULY OFFICE HOURS, HOWEVER STAFF WILL BE THERE IN HIS PLACE)
- Monday, August 1, Mr. Burger Restaurant, 1750 44th SE, Kentwood, MI 49508

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak to him about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or e-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours.

Senator Hardiman will have a cell phone collection box available with him when he holds District Office Hours. Again, this donation will go to the victims of domestic violence. If you have a cell phone to donate, please stop by district office hours.

Together we can help the victims of domestic violence, one step at a time

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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